

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

July 12, 2006

**CONTACT:** Andrew Geiger

(406) 841-2772

### **Free Lead Safe Training Offered in August**

(HELENA)---A free lead-safe training workshop designed for building industry professionals and do-it-yourself homeowners will be held in Helena on August 9 from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Department of Health and Human Services auditorium on Sanders Street. The workshop will be presented by the National Paint and Coating Association and Atrium Environmental Health and Safety Services and is co-sponsored by the Housing Division of the Montana Department of Commerce.

Tony Preite, Director of the Montana Department of Commerce, encourages industry contractors, home and code inspectors, building supervisors and landlords, maintenance workers, state and local municipal agencies, and community and social service organizations to attend. Workshop attendees will learn how to recognize and deal with lead-based paint in a variety of safe methods. "Lead can cause serious chronic health problems, and lead-based paint is a common source of exposure for people living in and remodeling homes built before 1978," Governor Brian Schweitzer said.

Lead-based paint does not pose a significant hazard when left undisturbed. The danger comes from activities that disturb the paint, such as remodeling, or when the paint is cracked and peeling. Exposure by breathing or ingesting the dust and paint fragments can then result. Children under the age of six are particularly at risk.

Online registration can be completed at [www.housing.mt.gov](http://www.housing.mt.gov). Attendees are eligible for educational points from certain industry boards. For more information, contact HOME Program Manager Ethan Stapp at the Montana Department of Commerce at (406) 841-2818 or [estapp@mt.gov](mailto:estapp@mt.gov).

**-END-**